

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a reissue application based on U.S. Patent No. 6,390,269, assigned to Mars Incorporated. This reissue application is being filed within two years of the grant date of the patent.

Status of claims

Claims 1-23 are pending.

Explanation of and support for amendments

Claim 1 has been amended by changing the word “enables” to “supports” so that the claim now recites that “the communications protocol supports communication between the internal controller and any one of at least first and second different types of device for handling money.”

Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in patent claim 7, which recites, in part, “a communications protocol supporting communication with any one of at least first and second different types of device for handling money.” (Col. 10, lines 59-62)

Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the internal controller is arranged to copy the content of “at least some” signals between the first port and the second port “without modification thereof.” Similarly, claim 14 has been amended to recite that the content of “at least some” signals is copied between said first and second ports “without modification.”

Support for the recitation of the language “without modification” may be found, for example, in patent claim 9 which recites that “the content of all signals received on said first port is output without modification as signals on said second port and the content of all signals received on said second port is output without modification on said first port.” (Col. 11, lines 10-14)

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Support for the language "at least some signals" may be found, for example, at col. 2, lines 5-11, which reads as follows:

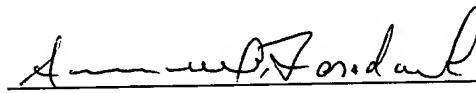
When the second unit is connected to the second port, the first unit copies all signals from the second port to the first port and copies at least those signals addressed to the second unit, and preferably all signals, from the first port to the second port, while responding to signals addressed to the first unit on the first port.

Other parts of the patent specification also may provide support for the amendments.

Applicant asks that the application be examined in view of the foregoing amendments.
Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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